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NOTE

767.90H/8

SEE 790h.9115/1 FOR #103

FROM Persia (Hornibrook) DATED June 11, 1934

TO

NAME

1—1127

REGARDING:

Arbitration of Perso-Afghan boundary by the Turkish Government.

Summarizes protocol providing for - and comments on relations among Afghanistan, Persia, Turkey and Soviet Russia.

Wi

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ankara, February 3, 1936.

No. 906

Subject: Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan to Turkey.

DIVISION OF EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
MAR 3 - 1936
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CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED Authority: letter of 5-20-64 from Donald J. Simon, State Dept.
By [illegible] Date 8/19/67

Confidential.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Serdar Feyz Mohammed Han, visited Ankara, Izmir and Istanbul during the earlier part of last month. He was made much of by Turkish officialdom, and the relations existing between Turkey and Afghanistan were described by both parties in terms of the most emphatic cordiality at banquets and in official communiqués. The most tangible result of the visit appears to be the decision of Afghanistan to adhere to the pact of non-aggression,

consultation

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consultation and non-interference recently initialled at Geneva by representatives of Turkey, Iran and Irak. When and where this pact will be signed has not been decided. I have been assured that the signature will not take place until Iran and Irak have settled certain boundary disputes. As to the place of signature, Teheran and Baghdad are mentioned. The Soviet Government is well disposed towards the whole scheme, but whether the same holds good of the British attitude is more doubtful. In diplomatic circles, it is said that the British would have liked to have the countries of the Arabian Peninsula included in the pact, but the Turks were not sympathetic to the idea, on the theory that these countries are not laic.

The visit of the Afghan Foreign Minister and the quadripartite treaty which may eventuate from it serve once more to call attention to the importance of Turkey in both the Near and Middle East. We have had ample opportunity to judge of Turkey's rôle in the Balkan Entente, both from the political point of view as well as from that of closer economic relations between the members of that Entente. To the east, also, Turkey's influence is spreading. There can be as little doubt of the effect upon the Shah of Atatürk's example as of the growing influence in Afghanistan of the group of some forty Turkish advisers on military affairs, education, hygiene, etc. Recently a plan for close cooperation between the Turkish and Iranian press organizations has been put into effect. The words "modernization" or "westernization" are not satisfactory in describing this process and "Turcofication" is quite as inadequate, although from a different point of view. Atatürk,

I believe,

I believe, is coming more and more to think of himself as the creator of an original form of government and governmental activity quite different from anything that has resulted from the liberal tradition of Europe or the United States; and it is this form and this activity which in varying degrees Turkey is passing on to the countries of the Middle East. Let us call it, for convenience, "Atatürkism", and enumerate its more important elements as follows:

1. Étatism.
2. An intense belief in modern Science.
3. Economic nationalism as against the large industrial countries of the West and of the Far East; but economic regionalism as among the countries directly involved — and the U.S.S.R.

Obviously, these elements are either identical with Soviet ideas or, at least, sufficiently close to them to permit the U.S.S.R. to look with favor upon the growth of Atatürk's influence eastwards. In fact, it is time for us to realize that in a large part of the world a high degree of resistance is being built up to western ideas as well as to western commerce. Western ideas are coming to be looked upon as out-of-date and western commerce as often no more than an attempt on the part of the larger industrial countries of the West to avoid facing the necessity for radical economic and social reorganization at home, while at the same time

rendering

rendering impossible any balanced economic life in the so-called "backward" or "outlet" countries.

Respectfully yours,

G. Howland Shaw

G. Howland Shaw,
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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